

Hearing Date: November 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. (AST)

Objection Deadline: August 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) / (AST)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

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In re:	:
	:
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND	:
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,	: PROMESA
	: Title III
	:
as representative of	: Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)
	:
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, <i>et al.</i> ,	: (Jointly Administered)
	:
Debtors. ¹	:
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**NOTICE OF HEARING ON THIRD INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF ZOLFO
COOPER, LLC, AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF
UNSECURED CREDITORS, FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT
OF EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD FROM
FEBRUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH MAY 31, 2018**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the annexed *Third Interim Fee Application of Zolfo Cooper, LLC, as Financial Advisor to Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for Period from February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018* (the “Application”) filed by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of all title III Debtors (other than COFINA), pursuant to section 1103(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, made applicable to these cases by section 301 of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and

¹ The Debtors in these title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481), (ii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686), (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808), (iv) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747).

Economic Stability Act of 2016 or “PROMESA”, will be held before the Honorable Laura Taylor Swain, United States District Court Judge, at the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, in Room 3, 150 Carlos Chardón Street, Federal Building, Office 150, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1767 on **November 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. (AST)** (the “Hearing”).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any responses or objections (“Objections”) to the Application by any party other than the Fee Examiner shall be in writing, shall conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be filed with the court (a) by attorneys practicing in the District Court, including attorneys admitted *pro hac vice*, electronically in accordance with rule 5 of the Local Rules for the District of Puerto Rico, and (b) by all other parties in interest, on a CD-ROM, in text-searchable portable document format (PDF), to the extent applicable, and shall be served in accordance with the *First Amended Order Setting Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals* [Docket No. 1715] (the “Interim Compensation Order”), so as to be so filed and received by the Notice Parties (as defined in the Interim Compensation Order) no later than **August 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) / (AST)** (the “Objection Deadline”).

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, if no Objections are timely filed, and if the Fee Examiner issues the Fee Examiner Report (as defined in the Interim Compensation Order) recommending approval of the Application in full or in part, the court may grant the Application without a hearing.

Dated: July 16, 2018

/s/ G. Alexander Bongartz

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Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

Hearing Date: November 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. (AST)

Objection Deadline: August 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) / (AST)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

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In re: : **PROMESA**
: **Title III**
:
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND :
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR :
PUERTO RICO, : **Case No. 17 BK 3283 (LTS)**
:
as representative of : **Jointly Administered**
:
THE COMMONWEALTH OF :
PUERTO RICO, et al., :
:
Debtors¹. :
:
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**THIRD INTERIM APPLICATION OF ZOLFO COOPER, LLC, FINANCIAL ADVISOR
TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE
PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH MAY 31, 2018**

Name of Applicant:	Zolfo Cooper, LLC
Authorized to Provide Professional Services to:	The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Date of Retention:	<i>Nunc Pro Tunc</i> to June 27, 2017
Period for Which Compensation and Reimbursement is Sought:	February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the: (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and, (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

Amount of Interim Compensation Sought as Actual, Reasonable, and Necessary:	\$3,161,231.75 ²
Amount of Interim Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable, and Necessary:	\$19,295.62 ³
Are your fee or expense totals different from the sum of previously-served monthly statements?	No
Blended hourly rate in this application for all professionals:	\$649.88 ⁴

This is an *interim* application.

Number of professionals with time included in this application: 13

Are any timekeeper's hourly rates higher than those charged and approved upon retention: Yes⁵

² As part of an agreement with the Fee Examiner, Zolfo Cooper agreed to a \$1,496.00 fee reduction with respect to its First Interim Fee Application. This reduction was taken in February 2018. While ZC is seeking allowance of all its fees incurred during the Application Period, it is only seeking payment of 80% of the fees, namely \$2,528,985.40. ZC reserves its rights to seek relief from the court to the extent any outstanding fees and expenses that are due and payable are not paid on the terms set forth in the Interim Compensation Order.

³ As part of an agreement with the Fee Examiner, Zolfo Cooper agreed to a \$2,424.39 expense reduction with respect to its First Interim Fee Application. This reduction was taken in Zolfo Cooper's February 2018 monthly fee statement.

⁴ ZC's blended hourly rate for the amounts sought to be paid hereunder is \$519.91.

⁵ As stated in Zolfo Cooper's engagement letter, Zolfo Cooper reviews its standard hourly rates semi-annually. Effective January 1, 2018, Zolfo Cooper revised its standard hourly rates. ZC provided notice of the rate change to members of the Unsecured Creditors' Committee.

MONTHLY FEE REQUESTS TO DATE

Date Submitted	Monthly Period Covered	Requested Fees (80%)	Requested Expenses (100%)	Fees Paid	Expenses Paid	20% Fee Holdback
First Interim Fee Period (June 27, 2017 through September 30, 2017)						
9/27/17	6/27/17 - 7/31/17	\$854,002.20	\$9,009.70	\$854,002.20	\$9,009.70	\$213,500.55
10/20/17	8/1/17- 8/31/17	\$787,880.80	\$26,379.03	\$787,880.80	\$26,379.03	\$196,970.20
12/5/17	9/1/17 - 9/30/17	\$471,130.40	\$2,983.96	\$471,130.40	\$2,983.96	\$117,782.60
Total		\$2,113,013.40	\$38,372.69	\$2,113,013.40	\$38,372.69	\$528,253.35
Second Interim Fee Period (October 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018)						
12/5/17	10/1/17 - 10/31/17	\$356,697.60	\$940.40 ⁶	\$356,697.60	\$940.70	\$89,174.40
1/10/18	11/1/17 - 11/30/17	\$423,968.80	\$1,251.36	\$432,968.80	\$1,251.36	\$105,992.20
2/15/18	12/1/17 - 12/31/17	\$296,904.80	\$1,900.18	\$296,904.80	\$1,900.18	\$74,226.20
3/16/18	1/1/18 - 1/31/18	\$495,133.20	\$5,633.73	\$495,133.20	\$5,633.73	\$123,783.30
Total		\$1,572,704.40	\$9,725.67	\$1,572,704.40	\$9,725.67	\$393,176.10
Third Interim Fee Period (February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018)						
4/27/18	2/1/18 – 2/28/18	\$499,252.80	\$2,066.05	\$499,252.80	\$2,066.05	\$124,813.20
5/17/18	3/1/18 – 3/31/18	\$650,565.40	\$10,502.26	\$650,565.40	10,502.26	\$162,641.35
6/22/18	4/1/18 – 4/30/18	\$750,454.40	\$1,603.57	\$24,434.10 ⁷	\$0.00	\$187,613.60
7/13/18	5/1/18 – 5/31/18	\$628,712.80	\$5,123.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$157,178.20
Total		\$2,528,985.40	\$19,295.62	\$1,174,252.30	\$12,568.31	\$632,246.35

⁶ Zolfo Cooper credited the \$0.30 in excess of the fee examiner's expense guidelines for photocopying expenses against expense amounts payable under ZC's February 2018 monthly fee statement.

⁷ Zolfo Cooper has received incorrect amounts from the Commonwealth with respect to previously approved monthly fee statements. As a result, Zolfo Cooper applied the \$24,434.10 in overpayments to its outstanding April 2018 monthly fee statement.

PRIOR INTERIM FEE APPLICATIONS

Date Filed [Docket No.]	Application Period Covered	Requested Fees	Requested Expenses	Order [Docket No.]	Fees Allowed and Paid	Expenses Allowed and Paid
12/15/17 Docket No. 2041	6/27/17 – 9/30/17	\$2,641,266.75	\$38,372.69	Docket No. 2685	Allowed: \$2,586,174.67 Paid: \$2,113,013.40 Authorized to be paid: \$2,111,816.60 ⁸	Allowed: \$35,948.30 Paid: \$38,372.69 Authorized to be paid: \$35,948.30 ⁹
3/19/18 Docket No. 2739	10/1/17 – 1/31/18	\$1,965,880.50	\$9,725.67	Docket No. 3279 ¹⁰	Allowed: N/A Paid: \$1,572,704.40 Authorized to be paid: N/A	Allowed: N/A Paid: \$9,725.67 Authorized to be paid: N/A

⁸ Zolfo Cooper credited the difference of \$1,196.80 against the amounts payable under the February 2018 fee statement.

⁹ Zolfo Cooper credited the difference of \$2,424.39 against the amounts payable under the February 2018 fee statement.

¹⁰ Zolfo Cooper elected to defer consideration for its second interim fee application to continue discussions with the Fee Examiner.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

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: **PROMESA**
: **TITLE III**
: **THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND**
: **MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR**
: **PUERTO RICO,**
: **Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)**
: **as representative of**
: **Jointly Administered**
: **THE COMMONWEALTH OF**
: **PUERTO RICO, et al.,**
: **Debtors.**¹
: **-----X**

**THIRD INTERIM APPLICATION OF ZOLFO COOPER, LLC, FINANCIAL ADVISOR
TO THE OFFICAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE
PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH MAY 31, 2018**

Zolfo Cooper, LLC (“ZC” or the “Firm”), as financial advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of all Title III Debtors (other than COFINA) (the “Creditors’ Committee” or the “Committee”), hereby submits its third interim application for compensation and reimbursement of expenses (the “Application”), pursuant to sections 316 and 317 of the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* of 2016 (“PROMESA”),² section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) as made applicable to

¹ The Debtors in these Title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective Title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481), (ii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566(LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686), (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808), (iv) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747).

² References to PROMESA are references to 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101 *et. seq.*

these cases by section 301(a) of PROMESA, Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and Rule 2016-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the “Local Rules”) for the interim allowance of compensation for professional services performed by ZC for the period from February 1, 2018 through and including May 31, 2018 (the “Application Period”) and for reimbursement of its actual and necessary expenses incurred during the Application Period. In support thereof, ZC respectfully represents as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. ZC, as financial advisor to the Committee, has worked diligently with the Committee to advise them on a host of critical issues attendant to these Title III cases. Among other things, ZC has been integrally involved in:

- (a) Analyzing the various fiscal plan drafts for Puerto Rico, including the following draft fiscal plans during this Application Period dated February 12, 2018 (“Commonwealth Draft February 12, 2018 Fiscal Plan”), March 23, 2018 (“Commonwealth Draft March 23, 2018 Fiscal Plan”), April 5, 2018 (“Commonwealth Draft April 5, 2018 Fiscal Plan”) and April 18, 2018 (“Commonwealth Draft April 18, 2018 Fiscal Plan”), as well as two certified fiscal plans for Puerto Rico during this Application Period dated April 19, 2018 (“Commonwealth April 19, 2018 Certified Fiscal Plan”) and May 30, 2018 (“Commonwealth May 30, 2018 Certified Fiscal Plan”). As part of its review, Zolfo Cooper analyzed the underlying supporting schedules and models that were provided. Zolfo Cooper also analyzed revised draft fiscal plans of certain of the Commonwealth’s instrumentalities, with particular emphasis on key components and any ad hoc Committee requests. Zolfo Cooper also analyzed two drafts of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for Puerto Rico during this Application Period dated May 4, 2018 (“Commonwealth May 4, 2018 Draft Fiscal 2019 Budget”) and May 18, 2018 (“Commonwealth May 18, 2018 Draft Fiscal 2019 Budget”);
- (b) Performing various analyses around the Commonwealth’s debt position and capacity, as well as reviewing and presenting commentary on historical and current debt restructuring proposals; and
- (c) Structuring settlement proposals related to the Commonwealth-COFINA dispute, as well as evaluating those of other constituents groups. In its role as advisor to the Commonwealth Agent in the

Commonwealth-COFINA dispute, Zolfo Cooper holds a lead role in negotiating a settlement with the COFINA Agent on behalf of the Commonwealth parties.

2. ZC has performed these services in an economic, effective, and efficient manner commensurate with the complexity and importance of the issues involved. For example, the work performed by ZC was carefully assigned to appropriate professionals or paraprofessionals according to the experience and level of expertise required for each particular task.³

3. In sum, ZC respectfully submits that the services for which it seeks compensation in this Application were necessary for and beneficial to the Committee, the Debtors, and their stakeholders and were rendered to protect, preserve, and maximize the value for unsecured creditors during the pendency of these title III cases. The results obtained to date have benefited not only the Committee but also the Debtors and their creditors. Accordingly, in light of the nature and complexity of these title III cases, ZC's charges for professional services performed and expenses incurred are reasonable under applicable standards. For all these reasons, ZC respectfully requests that the Court grant the Application and allow interim compensation for professional services performed and reimbursement for expenses as requested.

4. This Application is consistent with the Interim Compensation Order (as defined below) and Local Rule 2016-1, except that, in accordance with the instructions of the Fee Examiner appointed in these cases, no budgets were prepared with respect to the Application

³ As noted, ZC has agreed to reduce its total fees by an amount equal to 20% of the overall case fees (with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process). For the avoidance of doubt, ZC seeks allowance of \$3,161,231.75 (i.e., 100% of fees for services rendered during the Application Period), but payment of only \$2,528,985.40, reflecting 80% of the fees for services rendered, plus 100% of the expenses allowed pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order in the amount of \$19,295.62 during the Application Period (to the extent such amounts have not been paid before the hearing scheduled on this Application).

Period.⁴ To the extent necessary, ZC requests a waiver for cause shown of any such requirement not met by this Application.⁵

5. In accordance with the U.S. Trustee Guidelines, at the end of this Application are the following Exhibits:

- Exhibit A contains a summary of ZC's timekeepers included in this Application.
- Exhibit B contains a summary of the compensation requested by project category and matter number.
- Exhibit C contains detailed time descriptions by matter category.⁶
- Exhibit D contains a summary of expenses incurred during the Application Period.
- Exhibit E contains a detailed listing of expenses incurred during the Application Period.

II. BACKGROUND

6. On May 3, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico ("Oversight Board") commenced a Title III case for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by filing a voluntary petition for relief pursuant to section 304 (a) of PROMESA (the "Commonwealth Title III Case"). Thereafter, the Oversight Board commenced a Title III case for each of COFINA, the Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS Title III Case"), the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA Title III Case"), and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA Title III Case") (and together with the Commonwealth Title III Case, the "Title III Cases").⁷ By orders dated June 29,

⁴ ZC commenced preparing monthly budgets effective with the month of March 2018.

⁵ The Committee and ZC reserve all rights as to the relevance and substantive legal effect of the U.S. Trustee Guidelines with respect to any application for compensation in these cases.

⁶ Due to confidentiality restrictions, ZC cannot publicly disclose the substance of the issues addressed in mediation. Moreover, at the request of the mediation team, ZC has redacted all references to specific mediation issues in its time descriptions attached to this Application.

⁷ Unless otherwise indicated, references to docket numbers shall be to the docket of the Commonwealth Title III Case.

2017 [Docket No. 537] and October 6, 2017 [Docket No. 1417], the Court approved the joint administration of the Title III Cases.

7. On June 15, 2017, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Puerto Rico (the “U.S. Trustee”) filed a *Notice Appointing Creditors Committee for Unsecured Creditors* [Docket No. 338]. On June 27, 2017, the Committee selected Zolfo Cooper as financial advisor to the Committee.

8. On July 11, 2017, the Committee filed the Application of The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for Entry of Order Authorizing Employment and Retention of Zolfo Cooper, LLC as Financial Advisor, Effective as of June 27, 2017 [Docket No. 615] (the “Retention Application”).

9. On August 10, 2017, the Court entered the Order Authorizing Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to Employ and Retain Zolfo Cooper, LLC as Financial Advisor, Effective as of June 27, 2017 [Docket No. 1001] (the “Retention Order”).

10. On August 23, 2017, the Court entered the *Order Setting Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals* (as amended, the “Interim Compensation Order”).⁸

11. On August 25, 2017, the U.S. Trustee filed an *Amended Notice of Appointment of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors* [Docket No. 1171], which expanded the role of the Committee to be the official committee for the HTA Title III Case, the ERS Title III Case, and the PREPA Title III Case. ZC’s retention extends to the representation of the Committee as the official committee for the HTA Title III Case, the ERS Title III Case, and the PREPA Title III Case.

⁸ The Interim Compensation Order was amended on November 8, 2017, to reflect certain changes requested by the Fee Examiner and subsequently amended on June 6, 2018.

12. The Retention Order authorized ZC to be compensated on an hourly basis and reimbursed for actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses pursuant to sections 316 and 317 of PROMESA, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and such orders as the Court may direct. The Retention Order further provides that “[p]ursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 503(b)(1), made applicable by PROMESA section 301(a), the fees and expenses of Zolfo Cooper under this Order shall be an administrative expense.” In addition, as provided in the Retention Order, the Oversight Board has consented to the Debtors’ payment of ZC’s fees and expenses sought to be paid hereunder.

13. ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total fees sought to be paid in connection with ZC’s final fee application, with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process. For that reason, ZC is only seeking payment of 80% of its unpaid fees (to the extent such amount has not been paid before the hearing scheduled on this Application), but allowance of 100% of its fees.

14. On October 6, 2017, the Court entered the *Order Pursuant to PROMESA Sections 316 and 317 and Bankruptcy Code Section 105(a) Appointing a Fee Examiner and Related Relief* (the “Fee Examiner Order”) [Docket No. 1416]. The Court appointed Brady Williamson as the Fee Examiner in the Title III Cases.

15. This is ZC’s third interim fee application, covering the period from February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018. All services for which compensation is requested were performed for or on behalf of the Committee.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 306(a) of PROMESA. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to section 307(a) of PROMESA.

IV. BILLING PRACTICES

17. ZC hereby seeks compensation in accordance with its customary practices and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, Interim Compensation Order, and U.S. Trustee Guidelines.

18. ZC charges for its professional services based on actual hours expended to perform its services at standard hourly rates established for each employee, which hourly rates are subject to adjustment semi-annually. It is the customary practice of the Firm to bill clients for travel time consistent with the guidelines of the jurisdiction. Therefore, ZC has applied a 50% discount rate to non-working travel time billed. ZC records time entries in six-minute increments. ZC's fees reflect economies resulting from the use of paraprofessional and support personnel to develop schedules and analyses, input computer data, perform research, work on fee applications, and other activities necessary to the efficient administration of this case. ZC does not include support services in the Firm's overhead for the purpose of establishing billing rates. Billing rates are generally representative of prevailing market rates, as awarded by other courts in similar circumstances, based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy engagements.

19. ZC charges for reasonably incurred, out-of-pocket expenses, including, but not limited to, costs of reproduction at the lesser of \$0.10 per page or cost and other direct expenses. Except in certain instances which may be listed in the expense detail attached hereto, all expenses are billed at actual cost, exclusive of amortization of the cost of any investment, equipment or capital outlay.

20. ZC maintains contemporaneous records of the time expended and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in support of its billings for services.

V. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

21. By this application ZC seeks interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered to the Committee during the Application Period in the aggregate amount of \$3,161,231.75⁹ and expense reimbursements in the aggregate amount of \$19,295.62. These amounts are allocated among the Commonwealth Title III Case, the HTA Title III Case, the ERS Title III Case, and the PREPA Title III Case as follows:

Application Period	Fees	Expenses	Total
Commonwealth Title III Case	\$2,827,395.25	\$21,720.01	\$2,849,115.26
PREPA Title III Case	302,084.50	-	302,084.50
HTA Title III Case	17,610.00	-	17,610.00
ERS Title III Case	15,638.00	-	15,638.00
Total	\$3,162,727.75	\$21,720.01	\$3,184,447.76
Less Agreed Upon Reductions	(\$1,496.00)	(\$2,424.39)	(\$3,920.39)
Total Less Reductions	\$3,161,231.75	\$19,295.62	\$3,180,527.37

22. The Committee has approved the amounts requested by ZC for services performed and expenses incurred in each of the monthly fee statements for the periods of (i) February 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018, (ii) March 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018, (iii) April 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018, and (iv) May 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018 (“Monthly Fee Statements”) submitted to, among others, the Oversight Board, AAFAF, the Fee Examiner and the U.S. Trustee during the Application Period.

23. As of the date of filing this Application and in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, ZC has received payments totaling \$1,186,820.61, for services rendered

⁹ For the avoidance of doubt, while ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total fees sought to be paid in connection with ZC’s final fee application, the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process.

during the Application Period, which consists of \$499,252.80 (representing 80% of the \$624,066.00¹⁰ in total fees incurred for the month of February 2018) and \$2,066.05¹¹ (representing 100% of expenses invoiced during the month of February 2018); \$650,565.40 (representing 80% of the \$813,206.75 in total fees incurred for the month of March 2018) and \$10,502.26 (representing 100% of expenses invoiced during the month of March 2018) and \$24,434.10 (representing a portion of the 80% of the \$938,068.00 in total fees incurred for the month of April 2018). ZC has not yet received payment for (a) \$726,020.30 in fees incurred during the month of April 2018 (representing the remaining portion of the 80% of the \$938,068.00 in total fees incurred during that period) and \$1,603.57 in expenses (representing 100% of total expenses incurred during that period),¹² and (b) its fee statement for the month of May 2018 in which ZC requested payment of \$628,712.80 in professional fees (representing 80% of the \$785,891.00 in total fees incurred during that period) and \$5,123.74 in expenses (representing 100% of total expenses incurred during that period).¹³ In total, ZC has submitted Monthly Fee Statements, during the Application Period, for professional fees in the amount of \$2,528,985.40 (representing 80% of the \$3,161,231.75 in professional fees incurred by ZC during the Application Period) and expenses incurred in the total amount of \$19,295.62

¹⁰ Per the Fee Examiner's Initial Report dated March 1, 2018, Zolfo Cooper agreed to fee reductions of \$1,496.00 in connection with its fees outlined in the First Interim Fee Application. As described in Zolfo Cooper's Second Interim Fee Application, this reduction was taken to Zolfo Cooper's February 2018 Fee Statement.

¹¹ Per the Fee Examiner's Initial Report dated March 1, 2018, Zolfo Cooper agreed to expense reductions of \$2,424.39 in connection with its fees outlined in the First Interim Fee Application. As described in Zolfo Cooper's Second Interim Fee Application, this reduction was taken to Zolfo Cooper's February 2018 Fee Statement.

¹² The deadline to object to ZC's April 2018 fee statement was July 2, 2018. No objections were received, and, in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, the Debtors are required to pay 80% of the fees and 100% of expenses requested in the April 2018 fee statement by July 16, 2018. As of the filing of this Application, ZC has not received payment on account of the April 2018 fee statement, but has applied \$24,434.10 from a previous overpayment to its April 2018 fee statement.

¹³ The deadline to object to ZC's May 2018 fee statement is July 23, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (AST). No objections were received as of the filing of this Application.

(representing 100% of the expenses incurred by ZC during the Application Period). Accordingly, as of the date of this Application, the aggregate amount of \$1,361,460.41, remains unpaid.

VI. SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED

24. Pursuant to the Local Rules and U.S. Trustee Guidelines, ZC classified all services performed for which compensation is sought into separate categories. ZC placed the services performed in the matter category that best relates to the services provided. Although certain services may relate to one or more matter category, services are only included in one matter category. The following paragraphs highlight key services rendered by ZC during the Application Period in certain matter categories where ZC has expended a considerable number of hours on behalf of the Committee, and are not meant to be a detailed description of all of the work performed by ZC.

1 Planning & Coordination / Case Management Hours 27.7

In order to ensure that ZC professionals avoided duplication of efforts, ZC maintained work plans and allocated resources to address the numerous tasks in order to effectively and efficiently execute on the engagement strategy.

2 Meetings and Communications with Committee Members and/or Professionals Hours 663.2

ZC spent considerable time preparing for and participating in conference calls and in-person meetings with the Creditors' Committee to provide updates with regard to the status of the cases. These calls and meetings included discussions pertaining to, among other things, the Commonwealth-COFINA dispute, the Commonwealth's various fiscal plans and budgets (Commonwealth Draft February 12, 2018 Fiscal Plan, Commonwealth Draft March 23, 2018 Fiscal Plan, Commonwealth Draft April 5, 2018 Fiscal Plan and Commonwealth Draft April 18, 2018 Fiscal Plan, as well as the Commonwealth April 19, 2018 Certified Fiscal Plan, Commonwealth May 30, 2018 Certified Fiscal Plan, the Commonwealth May 4, 2018 Draft Fiscal 2019 Budget and the Commonwealth May 18, 2018 Draft Fiscal 2019 Budget), Rule 2004 Discovery Requests, Adversary Proceedings, mediation and general case strategy. In preparation for these calls and meetings, ZC created analyses and presentations that were provided to the members of the Committee.

3 Communication with Interested Parties **Hours** 497.9

During the Application Period, ZC professionals attended and participated in meetings and conference calls with the Oversight Board, AAFAF, the mediation team, other official and ad hoc committees and their financial and legal advisors. These meetings and calls served as a basis to understand the positions of the various constituents involved in the case and to address questions raised by the Committee and its advisors. A significant portion of these communications related to the Commonwealth-COFINA settlement discussion.

4 Liquidity and Cash Management **Hours** 92.8

ZC professionals spent a significant portion of the Application Period reviewing the Commonwealth's weekly liquidity reports and analyzing the Commonwealth's cash position relative to its projections.

5 Fiscal Plan and Related Budgets Analysis and Assessment **Hours** 1,250.8

A significant portion of the Application Period was spent reviewing the various iterations of the draft fiscal plans for Puerto Rico, including the Commonwealth Draft February 12, 2018 Fiscal Plan, Commonwealth Draft March 23, 2018 Fiscal Plan, Commonwealth Draft April 5, 2018 Fiscal Plan and Commonwealth Draft April 18, 2018 Fiscal Plan, as well as the two certified Commonwealth fiscal plans including the Commonwealth April 19, 2018 Certified Fiscal Plan and Commonwealth May 30, 2018 Certified Fiscal Plan. Zolfo Cooper analyzed the underlying supporting schedules and models that were provided with the draft and certified fiscal plans with a focus on the macroeconomic assumptions, analysis of the measures and feasibility. The team conducted further research on key components of the fiscal plans, including healthcare, pensions, taxes, debt and general baseline projections. Zolfo Cooper professionals also spent time analyzing the Commonwealth May 4, 2018 Draft Fiscal 2019 Budget and Commonwealth May 18, 2018 Draft Fiscal 2019 Budget relative to the Commonwealth Certified Fiscal 2018 Budget. During the Application Period, ZC professionals also analyzed drafts of the PREPA, PRASA, HTA, UPR and COSSEC fiscal plans, as well as those certified in April 2018.

6 Financial and Other Diligence **Hours** 331.7

Time spent researching and documenting relevant information regarding the Debtors' state of affairs from public and non-public sources, including, but not limited to, audited financial statements, operating reports, filings on the electronic court docket, press releases, AAFAF's website, the Oversight Board's website and documents and schedules provided in the virtual data room.

9 Debt Capacity **Hours** 290.5

Analysis of the Commonwealth's debt capacity and proposed capital structure. Throughout the Application Period, ZC professionals reviewed and analyzed materials provided by constituent advisors related to debt, performed analyses to assess comparable debt issuances, discussed findings of all analyses with the Committee, and both followed and reported on debt trading prices.

11 Plan of Adjustment Review and Negotiations **Hours** 701.0

Zolfo Cooper, as advisor to the Committee in its capacity as Commonwealth Agent in the Commonwealth-COFINA dispute, was instrumental in negotiating with the COFINA Agent on behalf of all Commonwealth parties. Zolfo Cooper developed multiple iterations of settlement proposals, analyzed counterproposals set forth by the COFINA Agent and other parties, and attended various meetings and mediation sessions targeted to resolve the Commonwealth-COFINA dispute.

19 PREPA Title III **Hours** 424.4

During the Application Period, ZC reviewed and analyzed materials relating to the PREPA Title III Case, including publically available financial information, court filings and information posted to PREPA's virtual data room. ZC also spent time assessing plans to revitalize PREPA and reviewing the PREPA draft fiscal plan dated March 23, 2018, the PREPA draft fiscal plan dated April 5, 2018 and the PREPA certified fiscal plan dated April 19, 2018. ZC professionals also traveled to Puerto Rico in February 2018 for a creditor meeting with PREPA's management team and its advisors. Additionally, ZC participated in regularly scheduled update calls with PREPA's legal and financial advisors.

20 HTA Title III **Hours** 26.9

During the Application Period, ZC reviewed and analyzed materials relating to the HTA Title III Case, including publically available financial information, filings on the electronic court docket and information posted to the virtual data room. ZC also prepared diligence request lists and participated in meetings with the Commonwealth and its advisors.

21 ERS Title III **Hours** 17.9

During the Application Period, ZC reviewed and analyzed materials relating to the ERS Title III Case, including publically available information and filings on the electronic court docket.

25. ZC believes that the fees and expenses requested are reasonable, and all amounts requested are for actual and necessary services rendered on behalf of the Committee.

26. ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total fees sought to be paid in connection with ZC's final fee application, with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process. For that reason, ZC is only seeking payment of 80% of its unpaid fees (to the extent such amount has not been paid before the hearing scheduled on this Application), but allowance of 100% of its fees.

27. ZC has not entered into any agreement, express or implied, with any other party for the purpose of fixing or sharing fees or other compensation to be paid for professional services rendered in these cases. No promises have been received by ZC or any member thereof as to compensation in connection with these cases other than in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

VII. ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION

28. Section 316 provides for the compensation of professionals. Specifically, section 316 provides that a court may award a professional employed by a committee under section 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered . . . and reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." PROMESA § 316(a). Section 316 of PROMESA also sets forth the criteria for the award of such compensation and reimbursement:

- (a) In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded to a professional person, the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including:
 - (i) the time spent on such services;
 - (ii) the rates charged for such services;

- (iii) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this chapter;
- (iv) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed;
- (v) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the restructuring field; and
- (vi) whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title or title 11, United States Code.

For all of the foregoing reasons, ZC believes the amounts herein are reasonable in light of the nature, extent and value of the services to the Committee, the Debtors, and all parties in interest.

VIII. NOTICE

29. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, ZC will provide notice of this Application to (i) the attorneys for the Oversight Board, Proskauer Rose LLP and O'Neill & Borges LLC; (ii) the attorneys for the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority, O'Melveny & Myers LLP and Marini Pietrantonio Muniz LLC; (iii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Puerto Rico; (iv) the attorneys for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Paul Hastings LLP and Casillas, Santiago & Torres LLC; (v) the attorneys for the Official Committee of Retired Employees, Jenner & Block LLP and Bennazar, Garcia & Milian, C.S.P; (vi) Puerto Rico Department of Treasury; (vii) the Fee Examiner, Brady Williamson; and (viii) counsel to the Fee Examiner, Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. and EDGE Legal Strategies, PSC. In addition, the notice of hearing with respect to this Application will be served on all parties that have filed a notice of appearance in the Title III Cases.

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IX. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, ZC respectfully requests entry of an order (i) allowing ZC's claims for fees and expenses for professional services rendered during the Application Period in the amount of \$3,161,231.75 and expense reimbursements in the amount of \$19,295.62; (ii) directing the Debtors' payment of the difference between the sum of 80% of the fees allowed plus 100% of the expenses allowed and the amounts previously paid by the Debtors pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order; and (iii) granting ZC such other and further relief as is just.

Dated: July 16, 2018
New York, New York



Carol Flaton
Managing Director
ZOLFO COOPER, LLC
1114 Avenue of the Americas, 41st Floor
New York, NY 10036
(212) 561-4000

Financial Advisor to the Committee

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

	X	
	:	
In re:	:	
	:	
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND	:	PROMESA
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,	:	Title III
	:	
as representative of	:	Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)
	:	
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	
Debtors. ¹	:	
	X	

**DECLARATION OF CAROL FLATON IN SUPPORT OF THIRD INTERIM FEE
APPLICATION OF ZOLFO COOPER, LLC, AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO OFFICIAL
COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS, FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR PERIOD FROM
FEBRUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH MAY 31, 2018**

Pursuant to Rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), I, Carol Flaton, declare that the following is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

1. I am a managing director of the firm Zolfo Cooper, LLC (“Zolfo Cooper”), a New Jersey limited liability company. I make this Declaration in support of the *Third Interim Application of Zolfo Cooper, LLC, Financial Advisor to Official Committee of Unsecured*

¹ The Debtors in these title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481), (ii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566(LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686), (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808), (iv) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747).

Creditors, for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period from February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2017 (the “Application”).²

2. The facts set forth in this Declaration are based upon my personal knowledge, discussions with other Zolfo Cooper professionals, and the firm’s client/matter records that were reviewed by me or Zolfo Cooper professionals acting under my supervision and direction.

3. I hereby certify that I have read the Application and, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry, (a) the compensation and reimbursement of expenses sought in the Application conform with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the U.S. Trustee Guidelines, and the Local Rules (collectively, the “Guidelines”), and (b) the compensation and reimbursement of expenses are billed at rates no less favorable to the Debtors than those customarily employed by Zolfo Cooper generally.

4. ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total fees sought to be paid in connection with ZC’s final fee application, with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process. For that reason, ZC is only seeking payment of 80% of its unpaid fees (but allowance of 100% of its fees).

² Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings set forth in the Application.

5. I declare under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge and after reasonable inquiry, the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 16th day of July, 2018



Carol Flaton